

Montanans Celebrate

American Indian Heritage Day

Friday, September 23th, 2011

The fourth Friday of September was designated by the 1997 Legislature as *American Indian Heritage Day*, in recognition of Montana's constitutional commitment to preserve the cultural integrity of American Indians.

Activities that celebrate American Indian Heritage Day can create sustained interest in learning about the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians, setting the tone and creating connections for a year of integrating Indian Education for All. *Spark interest with these activities...*

- Display information about Montana tribes – tribal specific poster, maps, and books.
- Learn the names of all Montana reservations, tribes that live on them and languages spoken there. Research how names of the tribes are spoken in their own languages.
- Explore nearby Montana Indian cultural and historical sites and community museums.
- Invite cultural resource experts from Montana's tribal nations to visit.
- Display OPI Indian Education for All curriculum materials.

Through the study of Montana Indian cultures and peoples, all students become more self-aware of their own cultures and develop a reference point to support greater understanding of others.

Explore the OPI Indian Education website for links to DVDs, websites, publications and lessons for most content areas and grade levels: <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>